Appl. No. 09/834,171 Amdt. dated N vember 24, 2003

Remarks

Upon entry of an RCE filed herewith and the Amendment After Final previously submitted on October 20, 2003, Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the application. By the present amendment, dependent claims 39-42, which depend from claim 38, have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments, as the claims parallel previously presented claims 24, 25, 26 and 29, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons previously noted for claim 38. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thus believe that the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

If any extension of time is required to have this paper entered and considered, such extension is hereby petitioned. Any additional fees or charges necessary in connection with the present application are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 40,991

Attorney For Applicants
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

180 Maiden Lane

New York, New York 10038-4982

(212) 806-5400